

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Pulverulent materials and mixtures thereof, comprising one or more ~~surface-modified and structure-modified~~ modified pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxides having a surface modification and a structure modification wherein the ~~surface-modified and structure-modified~~ modified pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide is

a silanized ~~structure-modified~~ silica having alkylsilyl groups which are octylsilyl and/or hexadecylsilyl attached to said silica, and having the following physiochemical properties:

BET surface area	25-400 m ² /g
Average primary particle size	5-50 nm
pH value	3-10
Carbon content	0.1-25%.

2. (Previously presented) Method of improving the flowability of pulverulent materials and mixtures thereof, comprising adding to the pulverulent materials and mixtures thereof one or more surface-modified and structure-modified pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxides wherein the surface-modified and structure-modified pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide is

a silanized structure-modified silica having alkylsilyl groups which are octylsilyl and/or hexadecylsilyl attached to said silica, and having the following physiochemical properties:

BET surface area	25-400 m ² /g
Average primary particle size	5-50 nm
pH value	3-10
Carbon content	0.1-25%.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A composition of matter comprising at least one pulverulent material which is a fire-extinguishing powder and at least one surface-modified pyrogenically prepared

metalloid or metallic oxide wherein the surface-modified and structure-modified pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide is

a silanized structure-modified silica having alkylsilyl groups which are octylsilyl and/or hexadecylsilyl attached to said silica, and having the following physiochemical properties:

BET surface area	25-400 m ² /g
Average primary particle size	5-50 nm
pH value	3-10
Carbon content	0.1-25%.

5-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The pulverulent materials and mixtures of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is a chemical modification of the surface of the pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide and the structure modification is a physical modification of the physical structure of the pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide.

16. (New) The pulverulent materials and mixtures of claim 15, wherein the physical modification is the result of mechanical action.

17. (New) The pulverulent materials and mixtures of claim 1, wherein the pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide having the structure modification has a DBP number % which is smaller than a pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide particle that lacks a structure modification.

18. (New) The pulverulent materials and mixtures of claim 17, wherein the DBP number is at least 10% smaller than the DBP number % of the pyrogenically prepared metalloid or metallic oxide particle that lacks a structure modification.

19. (New) Pulverulent materials and mixtures thereof, comprising one or more silanized silica having alkylsilyl groups which are octylsilyl and/or hexadecylsilyl attached to said silica, and having the following physiochemical properties:

BET surface area	25-400 m ² /g
Average primary particle size	5-50 nm
pH value	3-10
Carbon content	0.1-25%
DBP number %	<200%.

20. (New) The pulverulent materials and mixtures of claim 19, wherein the silanized silica has been mechanically modified to result in the DBP number % of <200% which is at least 10% smaller than corresponding silanized silica which has not been mechanically modified.

21. (New) A method of improving the flowability of a pulverulent material which comprises adding the pulverulent materials and mixtures thereof in accordance with claim 19.

22. (New) A mixture which comprises a fire-extinguishing powder and the pulverulent materials and mixtures in accordance with claim 19.